OBJECT OF CAMPAIGN

To bring high school and college mathematics teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi into closer professional contact through the medium of a common membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

CAMPAIGN ENDORSED BY:

Pres. T. D. Boyd, Louisiana State University.
Pres. J. R. Conniff, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute.
Pres. J. L. Johnson, Mississippi Woman's College.
Pres. Alfred Hume, University of Mississippi.
Pres. C. Cottingham, Louisiana College.
Pres. B. M. Walker, Mississippi A. & M. College.
Pres. E. L. Stephens, Southwestern Institute
Pres. V. L. Roy, Louisiana Normal College.
Supt. T. H. Harris, State of Louisiana.
Supt. H. M. Ivy, Mississippi Education Association, Meridian.
Prof. Dunham Jackson, Pres. M. A. of A.
Prof. W. D. Cairns, Sec'y. M. A. of A.
Prof. H. E. Slaught, Vice-Pres. M. A. of A.

OFFICERS OF THE LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI SECTION

Prof S. T. Sanders, Chairman La.-Miss. Section, L. S. U. Baton Rouge, La.
Prof. J. A. Torrey, Vice-Chairman, University, Miss.
Prof B. E. Mitchell, Millsaps College, Sec'y-Treas.

WHAT SOME OF THE EDUCATIONAL LEADERS HAVE SAID ABOUT IT.

"Your letter of June 14th is at hand. We shall make every endeavor to get as many as possible to join the Mathematical Association of America this summer."

> H. E. Buchanan,
> Dept. of Math., Tulane University.

"I shall be very glad indeed to furnish the brief appeal that you desire sent to the mathematics teachers in the secondary schools whenever you so desire."

> Nicholas Bauer.
> Superintendent N. O. City Schools.

"I have done some missionary work in the Shreveport region and now that the rush of the final days of the long term is over, I hope to do my duty. The Head of the Department of Shreveport High School will be ready to throw his full weight into helping line up the high school teachers in our vicinity. I hope soon to have the names of all the secondary mathematics teachers in our region.

Jno. A. Hardin,
Dean Centenary College.

"I am very glad to give my endorsement of your campaign. As requested in your letter of the 28th, I am inclosing the sheet checked as you requested."

C. Cottingham,
Pres. Louisiana College.

"I most highly endorse your plans."

Robert Torrey,
Math. Dept., University of Mississippi.

"I have been greatly interested in what you are undertaking in behalf of mathematics and the teaching of it in this section, and I wish you unbounded success in this good work which deserves the hearty endorsement of all our mathematicians and teachers of mathematics."

Alfred Hume,
Chancellor, University of Mississippi.

"Replying to your letter of May 26th, allow me to say that I am sending back your list with my name checked and that I shall be pleased to do everything in our power to help bring about the effective cooperation of teachers of college and secondary mathematics through the medium of a common membership in the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America."

J. L. Johnson,
Pres. Mississippi Woman's College.

"Replying to your letter of April 9th relative to increasing the membership in the Louisiana-Mississippi Sectioon of the A., I wish to suggest that arrangements be made to publish a short article in each isssuse of the Journal during the session of 1926-1927."

P. H. Griffith,
Sec'y Louisiana Teachers' Association,
Baton Rouge, La.

"I wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 21st ult., and shall be glad to have the opportunity of endorsing the campaign of your association to bring college and secondary mathematics teachers of the La.-Miss., territory into closer cooperation in their teaching work.   Therefore, you may use my name as requested."

J. R. Conniff,
Pres. Louisiana Polytechnic Institute.

"I think you are entirely right in trying to create a mathematical interest and in appealing to mathematics teachers of the two states who are not now in the Association, but whose interest in mathematics and mathematical promise may be such as to make them eligible to membership."

B. M. Walker,
Pres. Miss. A. & M. College.

"I agree fully with all that you say in your letter and the members of the department here will be glad to cooperate as best we can. Within the next few weeks we shall make the best list we can of secondary teachers of mathematics in this part of the state and send the list to you."

"Your plan of sending to such teachers statements of the value of membership in the Association is, I feel confident, a good one; and it will bring worth-while results, I believe."

A. C. Maddox
Louisiana Normal College.

"We are very much interested in your project and will cooperate in every way possible for the advancement of the laudable purposes of your section of the Mathematical Association. I trust you will free to command our services at all times."

V. L. Roy,
President, State Normal College.

"This will reply to yours of the 12th instant. I agree with you fully that there should be the closest kind of cooperation and affiliation between the colleges and the high schools."

T. H. Harris,
State Sup't. Education

NEEDED!

Cash contributions from all possible sources to aid printing and mailing expenses of campaign.

Every college and university of Louisiana and Mississippi to pay the expenses of at least one delegate to the fourth annual meeting of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of Mathematical Association of America to be held in Shreveport, the latter part of March.

Every parish school board of Louisiana and every county school board of Mississippi to pay the expenses of one delegate, a mathematics teachers, to the Shreveport meeting.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

The most serious responsibility which confronts college and high school mathematics teachers is the handling of the mathematics courses in such way as to secure a maximum of good to the undergraduate.

One could not properly estimate the teaching effectiveness and inspiration which would result from the annual coming together of even one-tenth of the college and secondary mathematics teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi if that tenth should consist of the leading teachers. The opportunity for just such coming together is afforded by the annual meetings of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

A GOOD START

The Board of Trustees of Centenary College at its June meeting voted one hundred twenty five dollars ($125.00) toward the expenses of this campaign.

Professor J. S. Patton of Homer, Louisiana has expressed his belief that his own parish, Claiborne, would send a mathematics delegate to Shreveport, with expenses of delegate paid.

If every parish of Louisiana and every county of Mississippi would do likewise, the meeting in Shreveport would establish an unexamplied record in the annals of mathematics.

Our first message of the series, it is intended to send out to the mathematics teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi, is largely contained in the following extract from Professor Slaught's "Mathematics and the Public" as published in the First Yearbook of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. READ IT, and pass it on to your neighbor mathematics teacher if he or she should happen not to be on our mailing list.

Read it. Then, if inclined to do so, write the chairman at Louisiana State University what you think of it, and of the project.   **It will help.**

From H. E. Slaught's "Mathematics and the Public" in The First Year Book of The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 1926:

MATHEMATICS AND THE PUBLIC

(1)   When it was decided that we must enter the World War, it was natural that mathematicians, along with other loyal citizens, should volunteer to assist in their special capacity, but they were told by the Secretary of War that there seemed to be nothing needed in their line. It was not long, however, before the government found that it did need the mathematicians, in fact, that it could not "carry on" without them in so important a matter as the effective development of the ordnance department.   In a short time a corps of workers was organized under the leadership of a number of outstanding mathematicians and they speedily applied modern and powerful mathematical methods, both theoretical and practical, to those problems of ballistics which needed to be solved in order to properly equip our army. So effective had this service become at the time of the armistice, that the American forces were undoubtedly supplied with the best data of any of the armies for determining the effectiveness of gun fire. Other groups of mathematicians rendered similar effective service in developing submarine detection appliances. These two achievements were of vital importance in determining the outcome of the war and they revealed the power of mathematics in a most emphatic manner to the unsuspecting public.

(2)   It came as a revelation to thousands of young men, many of whom had deliberately side-stepped all mathematical courses which they could possibly avoid in their school days, to find that those very courses were prerequisite to appointment or advancement as officers in either the army or the navy. It was a common experience to hear such men begging for the opportunity to enter classes in mathematics which they had previously ignored—and bragged about it too. The war served to elevate mathematics to a position of prominence not previously recognized by the casual public. This fact undoubtedly helped to swell the courses in mathematics in the colleges in the immediately succeeding years.

(3)   But we are most interested in the arts and sciences of peace than in those of war. The example of the late Charles P.

Steinmetz, whose name was a household word wherever the mysteries of electricity were under consideration, was probably more effective than any other means in driving home to the man in the street the fact that mathematics underlies all present day mechanical and physical progress. Thousands of boys and young men to whom the name of Steinmetz was magic have found early in their efforts to become electricians that one could climb a pole and splice a wire without knowing any mathematics, but that any masterful knowledge of electrical science could be gained only by the road that Steinmetz traveled, namely, by hard study of higher and higher mathematics. It is well known that his development of the mathematics of the alternating current, involving as it did those phases of higher mathematics which no one could have surmised in advance would be involved, did more than all other causes combined to lay the foundation upon which the great structure of the General Electric Company was built.

(4) It is well understood that the Rockefeller Foundation is now devoting its efforts chiefly toward the promotion of public health throughout the world. To this end it has not only made large grants to medical schools but it has indirectly stimulated independent work in the medical field by providing liberal research fellowships in the underlying sciences, physics and chemistry,—in chemistry as fundamental to medical research, and in physics as fundamental to chemistry. But it is not so widely known that the Foundation has recently extended the range of these fellowships to include mathematics as fundamental to both physics and chemistry. This step was taken deliberately after most careful consideration of the claims of mathematics as the basic science in this field.

This claim would hardly be questioned by the physical scientists themselves and would readily be admitted by the public. For example, it is said of the late Professor Chandler, dean of the Columbia School of Mines, when in the early days he wanted more mathematics put into the curriculum for chemists and was opposed by the head of the department of mathematics, that he came into the faculty meeting with an armful of books and said: "These gentlemen, are important articles on chemistry which I cannot read because I do not know mathematics enough. We do not want our students to be in my predicament."

But the public would be staggered if such a claim were made for any of the biological sciences. And yet the writer knows a physician who is a diagnostic and research specialist of high standing, who besides his medical degree holds a Ph. D. in physiology

from Harvard University, and who is now pursuing courses in advanced mathematics because he is unable to continue his researches successfully without more power in this line.

A few years ago the Mathematical Association of America invited several specialists in other sciences to take part in a symposium on "Mathematics in Relation to the Allied Sciences," and we were no little suprised to learn from biologists and biologists and biometoricians the wide range of mathematical subjects used by them in their research work. For instance, Dr. H. B. Williams of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, said in substance: "The biological sciences in the main rest entirely upon the fundamental sciences of physics and chemistry with all the mathematical foundation which these sciences presuppose." He cited his own investigations on "nerve impulse" and those by Einthoven of Leyden on "heart action"which were possible only because of their being well trained in methods of mathematical investigation.

One could proceed indefinitely citing evidence of a consciousness on the part of the public gradually awakening to the fact that mathematics in a marvelous and powerful instrument in the hands of trained thinkers for accomplishing great results. One further illustration, more or less amusing, was observed in the attempts of the newspaper reporters and popular magazine writers to describe "in a few words" the Einstein theory of relativity, but who invariably took refuge in the excuse that it all rested on mathematics of a "higher" type than the readers could be expected to understand, and thus they were duly overcome with awesome respect both for relativity and for the underlying mathematics.

Finally, one other serious illustration of far-reaching significance should be mentioned. The great industries and large business corporations are coming to realize the importance of fostering research in connection with their special problems, and very many of them have established laboratories as regular departments of their activities. In numerous cases such organizations have found that mathematical research, usually of quite an elementary character but often far more intricate and technical than could have been predicted, has led to higher degrees of efficiency, to new phases of economy, and sometimes to complete reorganization of procedure. Many such corporations have become institutional members of the American Mathematical Society during the past two years, with the privilege of nominating to individual membership those represen-